



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

Ky has pulled in his horns another notch. On 12 June he resigned from the directorship of the People's Self-Defense Force. He has gone into seclusion outside of Saigon and reportedly plans to stay away from the capital at least until the end of the week. Thereafter he says he will confine himself to the relatively innocuous duties assigned the vice president by the constitution.

Ky apparently made public his decision to leave this post without consulting Thieu. He is telling his friends he is convinced Thieu will now by-pass him on all important decisions. His letter of resignation showed no pique, however, and he assured Ambassador Bunker that he had no intention of mounting a coup.

2. France

The government's ban on demonstrations was respected in Paris last night, but there were clashes between police and student militants in several provincial cities.

In a further effort to break the back of the militant movement, the police are making large-scale arrests, and some foreign students are being expelled. One French official speculated yesterday that at some stage the security forces might try to clean out the Sorbonne. He thought such a move could produce a good many fatalities.

3. Berlin

Kiesinger told the three Western ambassadors yesterday that "not just protests but countermeasures are needed" in response to the latest East German controls on Berlin access. He said his government had not yet considered what steps Bonn and the allies might take, but he said German position papers would be made available.

The new East German restrictions went into operation last night.

4. Cambodia

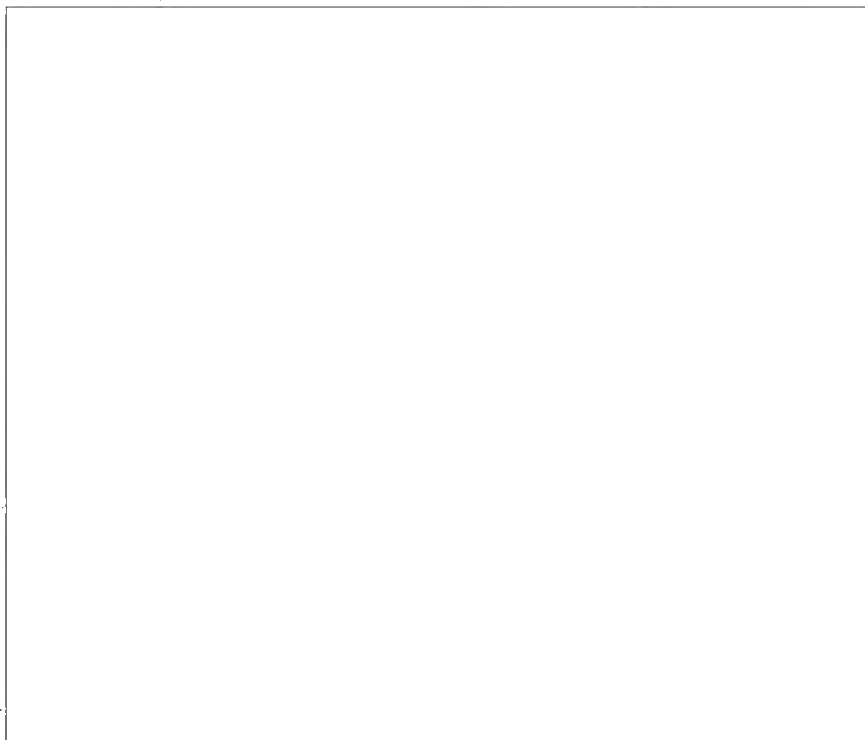
Sihanouk is still having little success against internal dissidents. A rebellion in the northeast, essentially tribal in origin but probably the recipient of some Communist support, seems to be spreading. The troops Sihanouk sent against it last month have been bogged down by rugged terrain and cholera.

In the south, Communist bands have recently made some harassing attacks on government forces. The bands are still small, but they seem to constitute the beginning of a full-fledged insurgent movement.

5. Pakistan - Soviet Union

A delegation headed by the commander-in-chief of the Pakistani Army is leaving for Moscow on Saturday. We assume the delegation will be trying to get a firm Soviet commitment to supply arms in general and high-performance tactical aircraft in particular. We believe Kosygin avoided making such a commitment during his visit in May.

6. Communist China



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7. Czechoslovakia

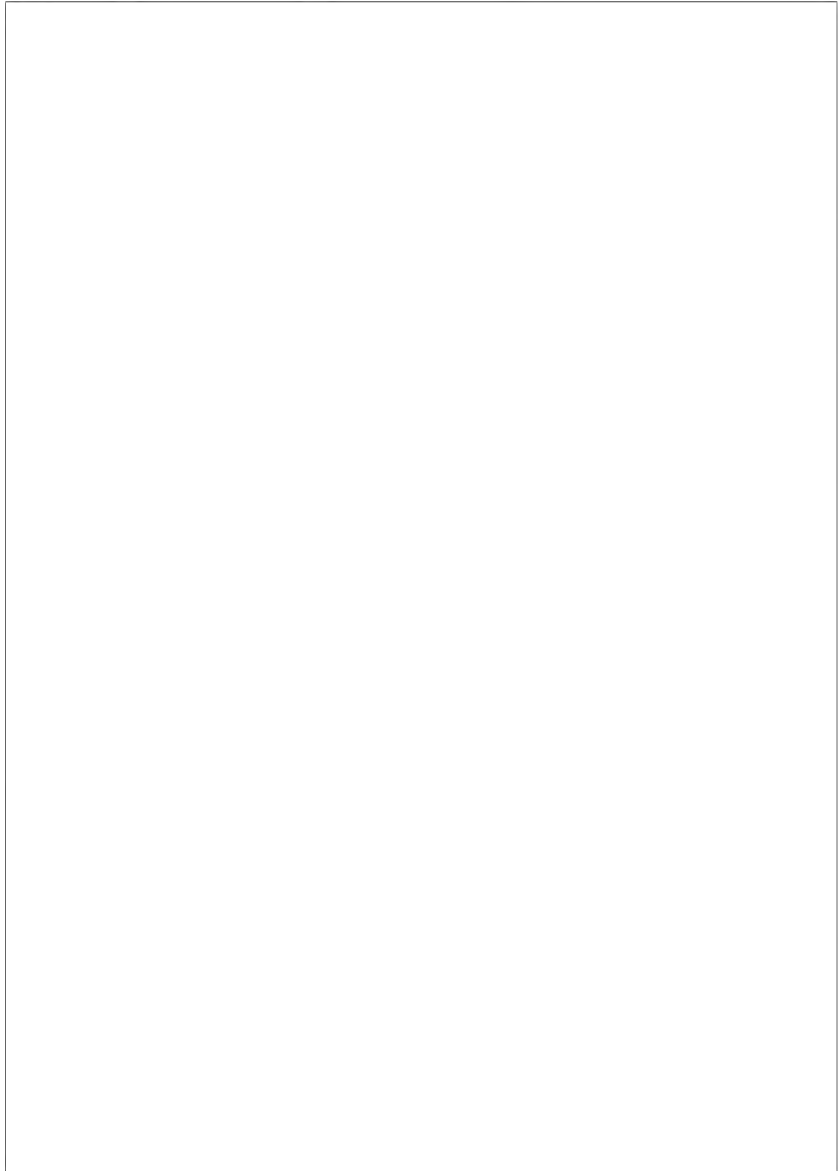
The Czechs have published the report of their investigation of the Sejna defection case. The report comes down hard on General Sejna's "criminal activities"--embezzlement, for instance--with Novotny. It also condemns "gross shortcomings" in the defense ministry which permitted him to continue his activities and eventually to escape.

The report says the investigation turned up no proof that Sejna had been an agent of another government or that his defection had been organized with any outside assistance.

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8. Jordan

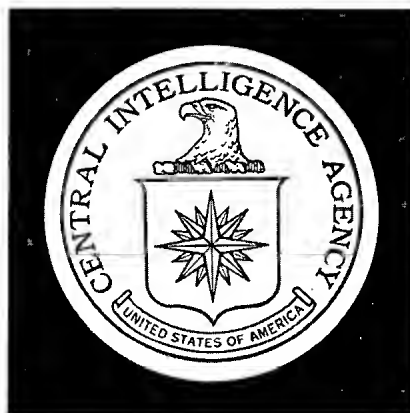
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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16

13 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

13 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on the Liberation Front and Outside Aid:

[redacted] a Liberation Front statement reviving the old theme about the possible call for volunteers from outside South Vietnam. An analysis of the Front's propaganda over the past few years shows the subject was first raised in March 1965 and it became a regular drum beat that summer with the expanded US troop commitment.

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At that time the Front said it reserved the right to call for volunteers and materiel from North Vietnam and from other "friendly countries" whenever it chose. Many Communist countries immediately replied that they were ready to send volunteers when the call came.

Hanoi's propaganda response to this appeal has always been more cautious, however. It has talked in terms of the South Vietnamese who were regrouped to the North in 1954. These men, said Hanoi, were ready to answer the call when and if it came.

That call has never been publicly issued by the Front, and even the propaganda threat died down in about a year. The Front has seldom referred to it in the past two years, and only the most eager and revolutionary Communists--the Chinese, the Cubans, and the North Koreans--have kept the issue alive.

By raising this old ghost now, the Front is playing to Hanoi's lead, the theme that Vietnam is one country which all Vietnamese have a duty to defend.

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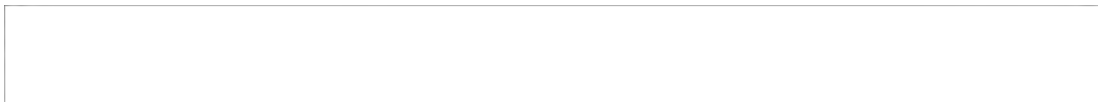
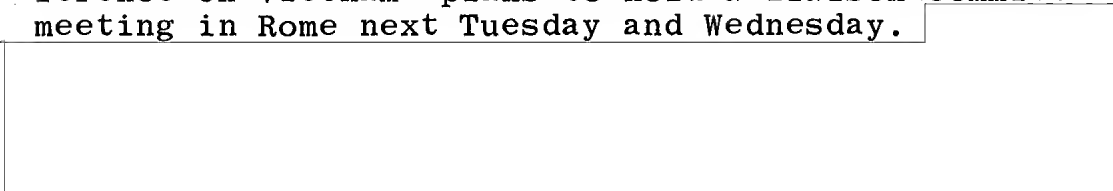
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Another Meeting on Vietnam: The "Stockholm Conference on Vietnam" plans to hold a liaison committee meeting in Rome next Tuesday and Wednesday.



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Unrest in Paris Delays Celebration of Ho's Birthday: The Vietnamese residents of Paris will celebrate Ho Chi Minh's birthday on 15 June. This affair was originally scheduled for 25 May but had to be postponed because of the student unrest and the general transportation strike. Ho's birthday, however, was on 19 May.

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Front Moves In On Paris: Two advance men for the Liberation Front arrived in Paris over the weekend.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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